

WORLD REACTION TO THE SOVIET ANNOUNCEMENT ON UNILATERAL SUSPENSION OF NUCLEAR TESTS

I. First reaction in the bloc:

A. Wide publicity was given the announcement throughout the bloc. Soviet press comment, while urging the US and Britain to follow the Soviet lead, did not repeat Gromyko's warning of a possible Soviet resumption of tests if they do not do so. An official Tass comment on the US declaration that without controls the announcement cannot be relied upon, declared it is scientifically proven that any nuclear test can be detected.

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that all thermonuclear explosions can be detected.

- C. Peiping attempted to place the onus for failure to reach an agreement for an international ban on nuclear weapons completely on the West, "especially" on the US.

II. Free World opinion has been divided.

- A. The NATO governments and the press which supports them have by and large been skeptical of the announcement.
- B. The opposition parties and ^{opposition} press in the West and, in general, the governments and press in the Afro-Asian world, ~~were much more~~ willing to accept the Soviet move as more than mere propaganda.

C. In West Germany the government and virtually all segments of the press welcomed the announcement, provided it was ^{perceived to be} more than a propaganda move. Chancellor Adenauer, expressing the government's hope that the Soviet proposals would lead to worldwide controlled disarmament said that, in such a case, implementation of the Bundestag decision to equip the ^{German forces} Bundeswehr with atomic weapons, will not be necessary.

D. Prime Minister Macmillan noted the announcement's opportune timing for the Russians and emphasized the need for tight controls.

1. The Laborites and ^{most of} the press ~~generally~~ advocated that Britain and the US follow the Soviet lead.

E. In France, where most people favor French acquisition and testing of their own weapons, officials and much of the press tended to be skeptical about Soviet intentions.

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- F. The United Arab Republic welcomed the announcement and declared it to be in harmony with the Bandung conference resolutions. The press played up Gromyko's call for a similar step by the US and Britain and decried US "suspicion" of the Soviet move.
- G. General Japanese reaction to the announcement was enthusiastic.
 - 1. The Japanese Foreign Minister said the declaration was "very welcome."
- H. Indian officials declared the Soviet move will help create an atmosphere of peace and is a step toward relaxation of world tension.
 - 1. Nehru is understood to have welcomed the news.

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